



Athena

By Kamala Woods

The manifestation of Athena

- Athena is the daughter of Zeus.
- She sprung from his head after Zeus swallowed Metis.
 - Zeus fell in love with Metis, although when he remembered a prophecy declaring that Metis's child would rival Zeus's authority, he swallowed her in order to prevent the possibility of children.
 - After he swallowed Metis, Zeus experienced a horrendous headache. Hephaestus split open Zeus's skull and Athena popped out fully grown and wearing armor.
- In contrast to the prophecy, Athena became Zeus's favorite child.



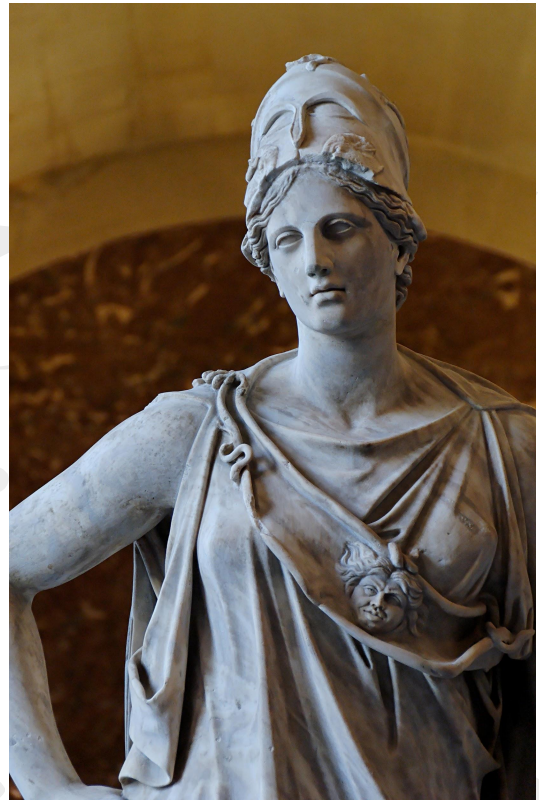
Characteristics of Athena

- Athena is the Greek Goddess of
 - war, wisdom, crafts (such as weaving), poetry, heroic endeavours, and the defence of towns.
- She is mainly known for her roles as a judge, diplomat, and adviser rather than a warrior.
- She embodies wisdom, reason, and purity, and she emphasizes the warlike qualities of strategy and cool logic.
- Athena only fights for the defence of the state and home from outside invaders. She is a powerful defender in war, although she is also a potent peacemaker.
- The owl is Athena's symbolic animal because it signifies watchfulness and wisdom, two of Athena's dominate qualities.



Characteristics of Athena

- Athena never had any children nor did she ever marry.
- She is a demonstration of the archetypal businesswoman, for romance is never mentioned in her mythology.
- Athena never lost a battle and she is often followed by Nike, Goddess of winged victory.
- She is the patron of Athens and, demonstrated by her name Athena, she has a strong connection with the city
 - Poseidon also wanted to be the patron of this city, and so the two siblings engaged in a contest to determine who Athens belonged to. Athena won by manifesting an olive tree to bloom within the city, which offered shade and food to the Athenians. This is why the olive tree is often associated with Athena.
- The plow, the rake, the chariot, and the art of navigation were all invented by Athena.



Iconology

- Athena is almost always portrayed wearing a full suit of armor, which represents her role as the Goddess of War
- Her shield and aegis bear the face of Medusa.
 - It reminds her of Perseus's achievement and it also is useful when engaged in battle, for Medusa's stare turns living beings to stone
- An owl often perches on her shoulder as a symbol of wisdom. It also brings out Athena's distinctive eyes which are described as a "gray-green".



MLA citation page

"Athena." *Athena*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.

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